

REMARKS

Consideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 have been cancelled and new claims 17-45 have been added to more distinctly claim the present invention. Claims 17-45 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

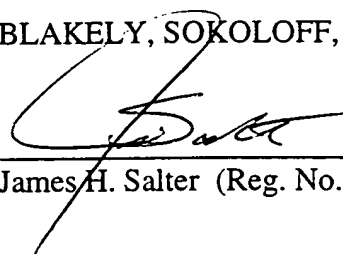
An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement anticipate or render obvious the claims of the present application.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact James H. Salter at (408) 720-8598.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 7/9, 1999

  
James H. Salter (Reg. No. 35,668)

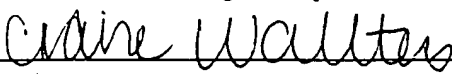
12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, CA. 90025-1026  
(408) 720-8598

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 9, 1999.

Claire Wallters

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

  
Signature

7/9/99  
Date